

cylindrical cartridge.

25. A casing according to claim 23 or claim 24, wherein the sleeve portion defines a cylindrical passage into which the primer may be slidably inserted.
26. A casing according to claim 23, wherein the primer casing further comprises a primer retaining means.
27. A casing according to claim 23, wherein the apex of the nose cone is rounded.
28. A casing according to claim 23, wherein the blasthole engagement means comprises a projection from the sleeve portion.
29. A casing according to claim 23, wherein the blasthole engagement means is moveable between a retracted position and a blasthole engagement position.
30. A casing according to claim 29, wherein the blasthole engagement means is integral with the casing and attached thereto by a flexible hinge which enables movement between retracted and blasthole engagement positions.
31. A casing according to claim 29 or claim 30, wherein in the retracted position the blasthole engagement means abuts the sleeve portion.
32. A casing according to any of claims 29 to 31, wherein in the blasthole engagement position the projection is inclined outwardly relative to the primer casing and rearwardly relative to the leading portion.
33. A casing according to any of claims 29 to 31, wherein the projection comprises at its end a blasthole wall engagement means.
34. A casing according to claim 23, further comprising a loading hose engaging

means.

35. A casing according to claim 34, wherein the sleeve portion is adapted to engage the end of a loading hose.
36. A casing according to claim 35, wherein the sleeve portion adapted to engage the end of the loading hose has an internal dimension greater than the external dimension of the end of the loading hose.
37. A casing according to claim 35 or claim 36, further comprising means for preventing contact between the primer and loading hose when the loading hose is engaged by the sleeve portion.
38. A casing according to claim 23, comprising a number of apertures in the sleeve portion.
39. A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in any of claims 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, or 36 and positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole.
40. A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in claim 23, and positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole, wherein the primer casing is positioned using a loading hose.
41. A method of loading a blasthole, which method comprises the steps of inserting a primer into a primer casing as claimed in claim 23, positioning the primer casing at a desired location in the blasthole, and charging the blasthole with bulk explosive.